

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

# VEHICLE INDUSTRY NEWS

VIN 2001-16

**Subject : Permanent Trailer Identification Program (PTI)**

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## Introduction

The Commercial Vehicle Registration Act of 2001 (CVRA) changes the way the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will register commercial motor vehicles and trailers. VIN Memos 2001-06 and 2001-13 have been sent to you regarding the registration changes to commercial motor vehicles.

Under the CVRA most trailers will no longer be registered annually. Most trailers will be converted to the Permanent Trailer Identification (**PTI**) program and renewed every five years. The current staggered expiration months will be retained. Additionally:

- In October 2001, a "Permanent Trailer Identification (PTI) Notice" was sent to customers whose trailer registrations expire on December 31, 2001.
- The PTI notice replaces the annual registration renewal notice and informs customers of the conversion requirement. Trailers on a Planned Non-Operation (PNO) status will be sent an invitation to convert to PTI. These vehicles may convert to PTI or remain on PNO.
- Trailers will be phased into the PTI program as their current registrations expire.

## Trailers Excluded from PTI

The following trailers are excluded from the PTI program and will continue to be subject to annual registration:

- Park trailers (Body type CCHPT)
- Park trailer boats (Body type CCHPTBT)
- Coach boat trailers (Body type CCHBT)
- Trailer coaches (Body type CCH)

**Note:** Converter gears and auxiliary dollies may belong to PTI, but it is not required.

## Procedures

- Dealers selling new or used trailers must be licensed by the DMV.
- Trailers sold new between December 1, 2001, and December 30, 2001, are subject to the current trailer registration and weight fees. Customers may register for a full-year (expiring 12/31/02).

Effective December 31, 2001, all document requirements for registering an original trailer will remain the same with the following **exceptions**:

- A weight certificate is **not** required for PTI applications. The registered owner, lessee, or dealer may certify to the trailer's unladen weight on an application for a New Vehicle Report of Sale (REG 397) or a Statement of Facts (REG 256).
- Do **not** collect the \$10 nonresident service fee for a nonresident PTI trailer.
- A new form, "Permanent Trailer Identification Certification" ([REG 4017] will be used for trailers registered in the PTI program.
- The \$20 PTI fee may be **posted** for any PTI trailer entering this state that is not licensed, registered, titled, or issued identification, and which is to be placed into dealer inventory to be sold.

**Or**

- A \$35 trip permit may be purchased.

<p><b>NOTE:</b> The option to post a \$20 PTI fee <b>or</b> purchase a trip permit allows the trailer to enter the state without purchasing a PTI in the dealer's name. Purchasing PTI in dealer's name would show the dealer as the registered owner. Therefore, the trailer would be considered registered and could <b>not</b> be sold as a new trailer.</p>
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## New Information

- Annual registration is eliminated for most trailers.
- A new PTI plate, if requested, and the Permanent Trailer Identification (PTI) card in lieu of a registration card are issued.
- The owner may keep the current trailer plates. A special PTI sticker will be issued to place on the plate.
- Special plates may also be retained or owners may place personalized plates on trailers. Renewal fees due will be based on the special plate.
- PTI renewal is every five years.
- After December 31, 2001, partial year registration (PYR) is not available for trailers. Owners with trailers currently registered PYR that expire on 12-31-01 must convert to PTI or file a PNO.
- After December 31, 2001, permanent fleet registration (PFR) is not available for trailers. Trailers currently registered in the PFR program must convert to PTI upon expiration of their 2002 registration or file a PNO.
- Trailers are no longer in the International Registration Plan (IRP) beginning December 31, 2001.

## Fees

The fees for trailers in the PTI program are:

<i>New Vehicles (Nonresidents/ new and conversion to PTI)</i>	<i>Paper Certificate of Title</i>	<i>Transfer</i>	<i>Duplicate Title (Allowed only if paper title was issued)</i>	<i>Substitute plate</i>	<i>Duplicate ID Cards</i>	<i>PTI Service Fee (Due every 5 years)</i>	<i>Electronic Lien and Title (ELT)</i>
\$20	\$10	\$7	\$7	\$8	\$7	\$10	\$10

- \$20 for the original registration or conversion. Any prior year fees and/or penalties and other miscellaneous fees (such as parking violation fees) will be collected in addition to the PTI conversion fee.
- \$10 for a paper title.
- \$7 transfer fee for trailers in the PTI program.
- \$7 duplicate paper Certificate of Title fee if a paper title issued previously was lost, stolen, or mutilated.
- \$8 substitute plate if the PTI plate is lost, stolen, or mutilated.
- \$7 duplicate ID Card fee for lost or stolen ID cards. A registration card is not issued for PTI trailers. The ID card issued shows the registered owner's name and address.
- \$10 service fee due every five years. A receipt will be mailed to the registered owner upon receipt of payment. A new ID card is **not** issued.
- \$10 for Electronic Lien and Title (ELT) transactions.
- Nonresident PTI applications will **not** be charged the \$10 Nonresident Service Fee.
- Collect Sales Tax and Sales Tax penalties if applicable.
- No penalty on conversion or renewal PTI fees.

## Partial Year Registration (PYR)

Upon implementation of the PTI program on December 31, 2001, PYR is no longer available for trailers.

### Example:

Sold new **12/15/01** and registered PYR for December 2001. Commercial trailer plate and a PYR sticker will be issued. The vehicle license fee and weight fee will be prorated for December. The registration fee, CHP, and county related fees will **not** be prorated. Registration will expire on **12/31/01**, and the trailer must convert to PTI by 12/31/01 or file a PNO.

**NOTE:** Trailers not subject to weight fees will be registered under **full** year guidelines.

## Converting to PTI

Conversion to PTI will take place with registrations that expire December 31, 2001, and later. Approximately sixty days prior to the registration expiration date, the PTI notice will inform customers that they may:

- Retain the existing trailer plate. A customer may retain the existing trailer plate and will receive a non-accountable PTI sticker to place on the plate along with a Permanent Identification Card. The customer may request a PTI plate later at no additional charge.

or

- Request a new permanent trailer plate. A PTI plate and a Permanent Identification Card will be issued. Stickers are not issued to PTI plates. The old plates do not have to be surrendered.

or

- **Remain on a planned non-operation (PNO) status.** The PTI notice will explain that conversion to PTI is not required if the trailer is not being operated, and that the trailer will retain its non-operational status. Conversion to PTI is required before the trailer is operated.

Regular trailer plates will no longer be issued to trailers required to be in the PTI program. If the registered owner does not respond to the PTI notice, no further action will be taken and no collection activity will result. Trailers operating on expired registration will be subject to citation and impoundment by law enforcement.

## PTI Titling Options

- A paper Certificate of Title must be requested by **sole owners** of PTI vehicles. A sole owner who wants a paper title must complete and sign the Permanent Trailer Identification Certification Form (REG 4017).
- If there is a legal owner (e.g., bank, finance company, etc.), a paper title will be issued (**excluding** the Electronic Lien Title [ELT]).

## Transfer of Ownership

The current transfer **requirements** (see *Dealer Handbook*, Chapter 2) remain the same for trailers registered in the PTI program with the following exceptions:

- A “Permanent Trailer Identification Certification (PTI)” REG 4017 must be completed and submitted for transfer of ownership if a paper title was not issued (**excluding ELTs**). A duplicate fee is **not** charged since a paper title was not issued.
- PTI paper title is \$10.
- Transfer fee is \$7.

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## Transfer of Ownership, continued

### Additional Information

- The Application for Duplicate Title (REG 227) must be used if a PTI paper title (including ELTs) was issued but has been lost, stolen, or mutilated. A \$7 duplicate fee is due.
- Fees may vary on transfer applications. The following are examples of what fees may be due.

### Examples:

If a PTI paper title has been lost, stolen, or mutilated, and the customer is applying for a duplicate paper title, transferring ownership, and the new owner requests a paper title, fees will be:

\$10 for a PTI paper title  
\$ 7 for the REG 227  
\$ 7 transfer fee  
**\$24 due**

If a PTI paper title has been lost, stolen, or mutilated, ownership is being transferred, and the new owner (sole owner) does **not** want a paper title, the fees would be:

\$ 7 for the REG 227  
\$ 7 transfer fee  
**\$14 due**

If a PTI paper title was not issued, the customer is transferring ownership, and the new owner does **not** want a paper title to be issued, the fees would be:

**\$7 transfer fee due**

## Permanent Trailer Identification Certification (REG 4017)

The new REG 4017 is a two-sided form used for trailers registered in the PTI program.

Side A is completed and signed by sole owners requesting a paper title.

Side B is an application for:

- Transfer of ownership for a PTI trailer if a paper title was **not** issued (excluding ELTs). The transfer may be a registered owner transfer or a release of security interest only.
- Adding a legal owner.

The REG 4017 may be obtained online at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov) in mid-December, by faxing your request to Number (916) 928-7900, or writing to:

- DMV  
Materials Management Section  
Inventory Control Operations  
4201 Sierra Point Drive Ste 112  
Sacramento, CA 95834

Indicate the form number or form title, quantity needed, street address (not P.O. Box) for delivery, and telephone number. If you have a question on your order you may call (916) 928-7901.

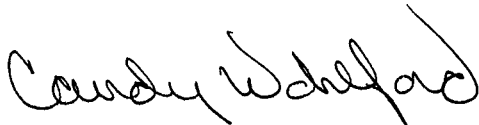
**Distribution**

This memo was distributed in December 2001 to the following:

- Dealers
- Registration Services

**Contact**

- Your local DMV field office regarding questions on processing transactions.
- The DMV Customer Communications Section at (916) 657-6560 for further clarification of this memo. Upon request, this document can be produced in Braille or large print.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Candy Wohlford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'C' at the beginning and a long, sweeping line extending from the end.

CANDY WOHLFORD, Deputy Director  
Communication Programs Division